

# READY STEADY COOK

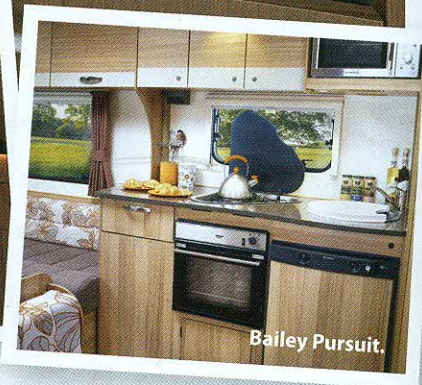


Dethleffs' Gourmet Kitchen Centre.

How much do you enjoy cooking? *Discover Touring* offers some advice on selecting a 'van for its kitchen.



Auto-Trail Frontier Chieftain.



Bailey Pursuit.

**A** part of the joy of camping is finding fresh, locally produced, seasonal food. But if, when you return to your 'van, the kitchen is cramped and the facilities are less than mediocre, the fun soon wears off. And if you really love cooking, kitchen design is even more important in your choice of 'van.

### Consider the following:

- **Storage** – is there enough space to put dry goods, crockery and pans? Metal runners on drawers are longer lasting than those made of plastic.
- **Fridge/Freezer** – is it suitable for the size and use of the 'van? Anticipate a small fridge in a small campervan, but a family spending a fortnight in a caravan will require something considerably bigger.

That said, is the fridge too big? You could be carrying around lots of additional weight by stuffing an over-large fridge full of food that you don't use. Look for fridges with detachable freezer compartments and check out how the fridge can be powered; three-way fridges (230v, 12v, gas) provide the most convenient options.

- **Sink** – is it large enough to cope with washing up more than a couple of mugs? Is there a drainage area for crocks? How does the tap work (many fold down into the sink area for travel)?
- **Oven and Grill** – are they separate or a combination unit? Is there an oven at all? Be careful with eye-level grills – is the grill at a height that you can see and use safely?
- **Hob** – Are there sufficient rings for your

needs? And are they far enough apart to all be used at the same time?

- **Microwave** – only useful if you stay regularly at campsites with hook-ups.
- **Preparation space** – Is there a clear working area, or additional space provided, such as a fold up or slide-out board?
- **Ventilation** – some kitchens now include an extractor hood. Otherwise, make sure that there is a window to avoid a build up of condensation.
- **Sockets** – how many are in the kitchen space? One is useful for a low-watt kettle but avoid using adaptors for extra gadgets.
- **Lighting** – is there enough light to be able to prepare and cook food safely?
- **Extras** – look out for useful additions such as an external barbecue point. 🍗

## ➤ Discover Touring's top ten kitchens in caravans and motorhomes:

Gone are the days of flimsy taps, pumping water with your foot and a primer stove. Kitchens for 'vans now look as if they are from a designer show home. Here's a pick of the best.

### Caravans:

#### Bailey Pursuit

[www.baileyofbristol.co.uk](http://www.baileyofbristol.co.uk)

From £12,995

A low-cost lightweight range in a choice of six best-selling layouts suitable for both couples and families. Each kitchen includes a stainless steel circular kitchen sink, washing up bowl, drainer and chopping board, Dometic 103-litre refrigerator and detachable full width freezer compartment, a Thetford Duplex combination oven and grill and a 3-burner gas hob.

#### Bailey Unicorn

[www.baileyofbristol.co.uk](http://www.baileyofbristol.co.uk)

From £19,275

With a selection of 8 models in Bailey's premium range, the kitchen designs incorporate high-spec fittings including a swan-neck mixer tap, a Dometic fridge/freezer as per the Bailey Pursuit or Dometic 190-litre fridge and freezer (model specific), Thetford Caprice combined oven, grill and hob with electronic ignition and flame failure device, dual-fuel hob with electric hotplate and 3 gas burners and an 800 watt microwave oven.

#### Coachman Pastiche 525/4

[www.coachman.co.uk](http://www.coachman.co.uk)

£21,995

A 4-berth caravan and one of six models in the Pastiche range. With an L-shaped kitchen that includes a work area with Spinflo Argent stainless sink and drainer, bowl and food grade chopping board, Thetford 3000 Series 113-litre refrigerator, Thetford Aspire oven with grill and dual fuel hob, microwave and external BBQ gas point.

#### Coachman Laser 640/4

[www.coachman.co.uk](http://www.coachman.co.uk)

£26,395

A top-of-the-range kitchen in a top end range 'van including a full size 175-litre stainless steel fridge freezer with automatic energy search and a pull out veg rack. There's also a Thetford Aspire oven with grill and dual fuel hob, microwave and external BBQ gas point.

### Motorhomes and campervans:

#### Wellhouse Ford Terrier

[www.wellhouseleisure.com](http://www.wellhouseleisure.com)

£39,500

A great van conversion based on the Ford Tourneo. And a great kitchen that will easily cope with a weekend away – or longer if you're stocking up daily on fresh food. The kitchen includes a sink with folding tap, 2-ring hob and 42-litre Vitrifrigo compressor fridge. There's prep space and cupboards for crocks and pots too.

#### Carthago Malibu

[www.malibu-carthago.com/en](http://www.malibu-carthago.com/en)

From £41,990

A new subsidiary brand of Carthago, the Malibu 600 and 640 are two new van conversions. An offside kitchen with two-burner hob and a very small sink; the removable sink cover acts as a chopping board or turns into a shelf above. Below are three very large drawers plus an overhead cupboard. An 80-litre fridge is included, but there is no grill or oven.

#### Roller Team 746

[www.rollerteammotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.rollerteammotorhomes.co.uk)

£44,380

A family coachbuilt with great internal space, the kitchen is laid out practically. The styling is very European, with dark woodwork complemented by clean lines and crisp bright worktops and chrome finishes. A useful oven grill and well-sized fridge all complete the kitchen area.

#### Dethleffs Esprit Comfort A6820

[www.dethleffs.co.uk](http://www.dethleffs.co.uk)

£68,390

Dethleffs' Gourmet Kitchen Centre would not look out of place in a celebrity chef's home. Stylish and still highly practical within a compact area, there's a 3-burner gas hob, sink and prep space, beneath which are large drawer compartments. Overhead lockers look home from home, and an oven plus large fridge come as standard. The kitchen centre is included in this fully winterised coachbuilt and all other Esprit models.

#### Auto-Trail Frontier Chieftain

[www.auto-trail.co.uk](http://www.auto-trail.co.uk)

£74,100

An ever-popular tag-axle ALKO chassis model, which sits at the high end of the Auto-Trail stable. A traditional styled and extremely generous galley kitchen, with under worktop LED lighting, is fully equipped with oven and separate grill, 4-burner hob (one electric ring) and microwave oven. Opposite is a large fridge and separate freezer plus the 'van also has an external BBQ point.

#### Laika Rexosline 9009

[www.laika.it/index.php/en](http://www.laika.it/index.php/en)

£100,800

This is top of the range Italian style in an A-class 'van of sheer sophistication where top-class entertaining can take place. With stainless steel and alabaster-effect work surfaces, there's a steel sink and the 4-burner hob, also in steel, is circular with concentric bands.

There's an enormous 1.10 metre wide cutlery drawer and the pull-out saucepan rack is hidden from view by a false wall that holds a spice rack. A fridge, oven, stylish extractor hood with mood lighting and a purpose-built space for an espresso maker complete the kitchen. Don't forget to take a personal chef!

